09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 MAR 2000

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)
(REV 10-95)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
0846-0544-2 PCT

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR
09 / 508692

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/FR98/02069	**28 September 1998**	**29 September 1997**

TITLE OF INVENTION
PROCESS FOR INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF OPERATION OF A MAGNETIC CIRCUIT AND CORRESPONSING MAGNETIC CIRCUIT

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US
Jean-Baptiste ALBERTINI, et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
   - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
   - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
   - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
9. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
    A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A substitute specification.
17. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
18. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
19. ☒ Other items or information:

Request for Consideration of Documents Cited in International Search Report
Notice of Priority
PCT/IB/304
PCT/IB/308
Drawings (4 sheets)
Statement of Relevancy
PTO Form 1449
Cited References (2)

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 09/508692	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR98/02069	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 0846-0544-2 PCT

20. The following fees are submitted:.

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :

		CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
☒ Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO	**$840.00**		
☐ International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)	**$670.00**		
☐ No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))	**$760.00**		
☐ Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2) paid to USPTO	**$970.00**		
☐ International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)	**$96.00**		
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		**$840.00**	
Surcharge of **$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).		**$0.00**	

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	9 - 20 =	0	x $18.00	**$0.00**	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x $78.00	**$0.00**	
Multiple Dependent Claims (**check if applicable**).			☐	**$0.00**	
	TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =			**$840.00**	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (**check if applicable**).			☐	**$0.00**	
	SUBTOTAL =			**$840.00**	
Processing fee of **$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).			+	**$0.00**	
	TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =			**$840.00**	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (**check if applicable**).			☐	**$0.00**	
	TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =			**$840.00**	
				Amount to be: refunded	$
				charged	$

☒ A check in the amount of **$840.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. in the amount of to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **15-0030** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Crystal Square Five, Fourth Floor
1755 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
703-413-3000

WILLIAM E. BEAUMONT
REGISTRATION NUMBER 30,996

ECKHARD H. KUESTERS
REGISTRATION NUMBER 28,870

SIGNATURE

Marvin J. Spivak
NAME

24,913
REGISTRATION NUMBER

March 29, 2000
DATE

DOCKET NO. 0846-0544-2 PCT

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Jean-Baptiste ALBERTINI, et al.

SERIAL NO.: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION (based on PCT/FR98/02069)

FILED: HEREWITH

FOR: PROCESS FOR INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF OPERATION OF A MAGNETIC CIRCUIT AND CORRESPONDING MAGNETIC CIRCUIT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.

☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27 has been established by a verified statement submitted herewith.

☒ Additional documents filed herewith: English Translation of Specification/Declaration Preliminary Amendment/Notice of Priority/PCT/IB/304/Information Disclosure Statement/PCT/IB/308 Statement of Relevancy/PTO Form 1449/PCT Transmittal Letter/International Search Report/Check for $840.00 Drawings (4 sheets)/Cited References (2)

The fee has been calculated as shown below.

	(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL	* 9	MINUS	** 20	= 0	X9 =	$	X18 =	$ .00
INDEP	* 2	MINUS	*** 3	= 0	X39 =	$	X78 =	$ .00
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					+130=	$	+260=	$
					TOTAL	$	TOTAL	$ .00

___ A check in the amount of $____________ is attached.

XX Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

XX If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time may be charged to deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Marvin J. Spivak
Attorney of Record
Registration No.24,913
William E. Beaumont
Registration No. 30,996

Fourth Floor
1755 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 413-3000

*If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 1 write "0" in Column 3.
**If the "Highest Number Previously paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20 write "20" in this space.
***If the "Highest Number Previously paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3 write "3" in this space.

0846-0544-2 PCT

09/508692
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :

JEAN-BAPTISTE ALBERTINI ET AL :

SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLN. : ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH
(Based on PCT/FR/98/02069)

FILED: HEREWITH :

FOR: PROCESS FOR INCREASING THE: FREQUENCY OF OPERATION OF A MAGNETIC CIRCUIT AND CORRESPONDING MAGNETIC CIRCUIT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before line 1, insert

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION--;

delete prenumbered line 5 in its entirety and substitute therefor:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION;

delete prenumbered line 19 in its entirety and substitute therefor

--Discussion of the Background--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-7 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 8-16 as follows:

--8. A process for increasing the operating frequency of a magnetic circuit, characterized by the fact that it comprises forming, in at least one part of this circuit, gaps perpendicular to the median line of the magnetic circuit.

9. A process according to claim 8, in which the gaps are formed in parallel planes.

10. A process according to claim 8, in which gaps are formed at regular intervals with a certain pitch and a certain width.

11. A magnetic circuit, characterized by the fact that it has, in at least one part of it, gaps perpendicular to the median line of the magnetic circuit.

12. A magnetic circuit according to claim 11, in which the gaps are spaced at regular intervals.

13. A circuit according to claim 11, in which the part of the circuit having the gaps is formed by a single layer of magnetic material.

14. A circuit according to claim 11, in which the part of the circuit having the gaps is formed by a stack of alternately magnetic and insulating layers.

15. A circuit according to claim 12, in which the part of the circuit having the gaps is formed by a single layer of magnetic material.

16. A circuit according to claim 12, in which the part of the circuit having the gaps is formed by a stack of alternately magnetic and insulating layers.--

<u>IN THE ABSTRACT</u>

Please delete the original Abstract on page 15 in its entirety and insert therefor:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for increasing the frequency of operation of a magnetic circuit. In the process, gaps are formed in at least one section of the magnetic circuit. The gaps lower the permeability of the magnetic circuit and increase in particular the frequency of magnetic resonance and make possible the use of higher frequencies. Applications of the process include the manufacture of inductors, transformers, components, magnetic heads, etc..--

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice. By the present preliminary amendment the specification has been amended to include proper headings. Original Claims 1-7 have been cancelled and new Claims 8-16 have been presented for examination. New Claims 8-16 are similar to original Claims 1-7 but new Claims 8-16 do not recite the term "consisting", do not recite reference numerals, and do not recite multiple dependencies. A new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is also submitted herein.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Surinder Sachar

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Crystal Square Five - Fourth Floor
1755 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703)413-2220
GJM:SNS/cle
I:\atty\SNS\08460544.pr

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09/508692

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PROCESS FOR INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF OPERATION OF A MAGNETIC CIRCUIT AND CORRESPONDING MAGNETIC CIRCUIT

DESCRIPTION

Field of the Invention

The purpose of this invention is to provide a process for increasing the frequency of operation of a magnetic circuit and a corresponding magnetic circuit.

It has applications in the manufacture of magnetic components, especially inductive components (typically inductors, either single or multiple, or being part of a network of elementary components integrated into the same chip), in the manufacture of transformers, magnetic-field sensors, or instruments for measuring a quantity related to a magnetic field, magnetic recording heads, etc...

State of the Art

In inductive components (inductors, transformers, magnetic heads, etc...), it is advantageous to channel the magnetic flux by means of a high-permeability magnetic circuit as this permits either a gain in performance for a given size or a reduction in size for a given performance.

In macroscopic radio-frequency components, magnetic circuits are generally made of solid ferrite while, in integrated components, stacks of thin layers of ferromagnetic alloy (typically Fe-Ni) and insulating material are more frequently used. The development of such integrated components is presently underway through active research in many laboratories.

The miniaturization of these components makes it possible to increase their working frequency by reducing, in particular, propagation and induced-current phenomena.

The performance of insulator/alloy composites in the form of thin layers is much better than that of ferrite components and makes it possible to consider operation at frequencies extending well beyond the radio-frequency range. Nonetheless, these materials have their own limitations, related either to fundamental phenomena or to the technology used. Two limiting phenomena related to technology are skin effect and dimensional resonance. Both have the effect of reducing the effective permeability of the composite and altering its frequency response.

The first one can be avoided (or limited) by, as is done conventionally, choosing a thickness for the magnetic layers in the stack much smaller than, or on the same order of size as, the skin depth. As an example, the skin thickness is 0.2 µm at 1 GHz for the Fe-Ni alloy.

The second one, related to dimensional resonance, is associated with the electromagnetic propagation inside the composite in directions parallel to the layers. It can be limited, in one case, by maintaining a sufficient thickness of insulating material between the magnetic layers (to the detriment of the packing factor) and, in the other case, by limiting the side dimensions of the magnetic circuits or the cores.

Consequently, for a frequency of 1 GHz, the width of the Fe-Ni magnetic circuit or magnetic core should be much less than 700 µm, a condition just about compatible with integration concerns.

Another limitation, unrelated to the technology involved and more fundamental in nature, corresponds to the phenomenon of gyromagnetic resonance. The frequency of this resonance constitutes, as is known, an upper limit in the usable frequency range, knowing that at frequencies below this resonance the relative permeability is practically constant and equal to its static value. It is well known that, in an alloy with a given composition, it is possible, by means of simple heat treatments, to vary the permeability and the resonant frequency. Consequently, the limitation due to gyromagnetic resonance is not expressed only in terms of frequency. It can be shown that the product $\mu_2.f_r^2$, where μ_2 is the static value of the permeability and f_r the gyromagnetic resonant frequency, is constant for an alloy with a given composition when, through treatment after deposit, μ_2 and f_r are modified at the same time. This product thus constitutes a merit factor for the material, which depends only on its composition. It can be shown that it depends practically only on the spontaneous magnetization of the alloy. For the Fe-Ni alloy:

$$\mu_2.f_r^2 = 1300\ \text{GHz}^2$$

For a composite whose packing factor is η, there is simply:

$$\mu_2.f_r^2 = \eta.1300\ \text{GHz}^2$$

The existence of such a relationship shows that μ_2 and f_r cannot be modified independently.

In particular, operation at higher and higher frequencies requires a reduction in magnetic permeability.

For a given working frequency f, an attempt is thus made, in general, to condition the material in

such a way that the resonant frequency f_r lies well above f. This assumes that the material can be adapted to the application under consideration. The resonant frequency could be modified by a heat treatment after deposit. But this technique has drawbacks: compatibility with the device's manufacturing processes is not assured and, in any case, the variations obtained remain small.

The purpose of the invention is to overcome these drawbacks.

Summary of the Invention

It involves increasing the operating frequency of a magnetic circuit. Increasing the operating frequency of a magnetic circuit means raising to a higher frequency level at least the most restrictive phenomenon, this phenomenon being, in particular, gyromagnetic resonance, skin effect, dimensional resonance, etc...

To this end, the invention recommends introducing gaps into the circuit, these gaps being perpendicular to the direction of the field, i.e. perpendicular to the circuit's median line. These gaps will create a highly effective demagnetizing field in the material. The magnetic permeability will be lowered without the overall shape of the circuit or the magnetic material being modified. For example, in the case of magnetic recording heads (in which there is already at least one air gap), gaps can be added to the rest of the circuit in order to increase the frequency tolerance of the magnetic material. The more gaps there are perpendicular to the median flux (therefore to the median line of the magnetic circuit in the direction of the field), the more the demagnetizing field is

increased and the more the permeability of the circuit is reduced, improving to the same extent its frequency tolerance. The magnetic circuit's cut-off frequency could thus be adapted to a set of specifications and the best possible permeability could be obtained for this frequency range with a given material.

It can be emphasized that, in a magnetic component, an attempt is sometimes made to maximize the permeability of the magnetic circuit in order to minimize losses. Consequently, due to the relationship pointed out above, showing that the product of the permeability and the square of the resonant frequency remains constant for a given material, the higher the effective magnetic permeability of the material, the lower the gyromagnetic resonant frequency; this limits the component's operating frequency range. This limitation could be a hindrance for high-frequency applications such as the manufacture of integrated HF inductors (useful in particular for mobile telephones), HF transformers, HF magnetic recording heads, ...

This invention runs counter to these tendencies by advocating on the contrary a reduction in permeability.

To be precise, the purpose of this invention is to provide a process for increasing the operating frequency of a magnetic circuit, this process being characterized by the fact that it consists of forming, in at least one part of this circuit, gaps perpendicular to the median line of the magnetic circuit.

In one advantageous method of implementation, the gaps are formed in parallel planes.

In another method of implementation, evenly-spaced gaps are formed with a certain pitch and a certain width.

The purpose of this invention is also to provide a magnetic circuit characterized by the fact that it contains, in at least one part of it, gaps perpendicular to the median line of the magnetic circuit and placed in parallel planes.

In an advantageous variant, these gaps are evenly spaced.

The invention offers many advantages:

a) It provides the means of adjusting the operating frequency range of a core or magnetic circuit, thus that of a component, while at the same time maintaining the best possible permeability. In practice, while using the same magnetic material, it is possible to choose a gap size and a spacing for these gaps so that, in particular, the gyromagnetic resonant frequency and the other characteristic frequencies are matched to the component's specifications. Instead of changing either the magnetic material or the shape of the magnetic circuit for each frequency range desired, it is consequently possible to have a wide range of possible frequencies for each pair (material, circuit shape).

b) It is fully compatible with the circuit manufacturing processes.

c) It does not change the macroscopic shape of the component or its magnetic circuit.

d) It provides the means of using the same magnetic material to make components having different operating frequencies.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- figure 1 shows the variations in the gyromagnetic resonant frequency f_r in relation to the ratio (e/p) of the width (e) to the pitch (p) of the gaps;

- figures 2a to 2e show the steps in the manufacture of part of a magnetic circuit for an initial variant of the invention;

- figures 3a to 3c show the steps in the manufacture of part of a magnetic circuit for a second variant of the invention;

- figure 4 shows an example of a magnetic circuit resulting from the invention, in the form of a toroid;

- figure 5 shows another example of a magnetic circuit resulting from the invention adapted to a magnetic pickup head.

Detailed Description of an Embodiment of the Invention

Producing a magnetic layer broken at regular intervals by gaps of width (e) made in the direction of the median line of the magnetic circuit with spacing (p), with a material having an intrinsic permeability μ, whose static value is μ_s, amounts to creating artificially a layer of material with an effective permeability of μ_e, whose static value is μ_{es}, such that:

$$1/\mu_{es} = (1/\mu_s) + (e/p)$$

When (e/p) increases, $1/\mu_{es}$ increases correspondingly, which shows that μ_{es} decreases. The decrease in μ_{es} is accompanied by a correlative increase in the resonant frequency in accordance with the relationship:

$$\mu_{es} . f_r^2 = C,$$

in which C is a constant.

For a desired frequency f_r, knowing the constants C and μ_s of a material, it is possible to calculate the permeability μ_{es} to be obtained and find a width-pitch pair (e,p) satisfying the equation $1/\mu_{es} = (1/\mu_s) + (e/p)$. The circuit obtained, with its gaps having the corresponding dimensions and spacing, then has a frequency tolerance reaching f_r.

The preceding equations are in fact fairly approximate, the notion of permeability becoming itself less precise as the realm of magnetic fields is approached. To obtain greater precision, it is also possible, for each magnetic material being considered, to fabricate experimental devices with gaps with variable dimensions and spacings, and measure precisely the magnetic circuit's frequency tolerance, adopting in the end the optimum configuration.

The invention applies to single-layer magnetic circuits as well as to multi-layer circuits. Figure 1 gives, for example, the variation in the cut-off frequency f_c in relation to the ratio e/p for an iron-nickel and silicon nitride composite. The relationship linking the permeability μ_s and the frequency f_r is, in this case: $\mu_s . f_r^2 = 1300\ (\mathrm{GHz})^2$.

When there are no gaps, the frequency f_r is slightly below a Gigahertz and increases to approximately 10 GHz for gaps whose width is on the order of one tenth of the pitch ($e/p = 10^{-1}$).

More roughly, it is also possible to estimate the influence of the evenly-spaced gaps on the other two characteristic frequencies related to the skin effect

and dimensional resonance. Consequently, in a magnetic circuit of any shape, but having evenly-spaced gaps, therefore spread out regularly over the length of the circuit, it can be considered that the effective permeability defined by the equation $1/\mu_{es} = 1/\mu_s + e/p$ takes on a local aspect. It can then be shown that the two frequency limits being considered, that due to the skin effect and that due to dimensional resonance, are multiplied, respectively, by $\sqrt{\mu_s/\mu_{es}}$ and by μ_s/μ_{es}.

In all of these considerations, it is assumed of course that, for a multi-layer (or laminated) material, grooves were made throughout the layers.

Figures 2a to 2e illustrate five steps of a process for making a magnetic layer buried in a substrate. In this example, the magnetic layer is a branch of a magnetic circuit belonging to a vertical built-in coil-type magnetic head such as that described in request FR-A-2 745 111. In addition, this magnetic layer is multi-layer and the thicknesses of the various layers are not to the same scale in these figures.

In this process, the operations start with a substrate 10 (fig. 2a) which is, for example, made of silicon. On this substrate is deposited a thick layer 12 consisting of several microns of insulating material, silica for example. This layer 12 is next engraved by means of a mask having evenly-spaced openings. Pits 14 separated by walls 16 are then obtained (fig. 2b). The thickness of these walls determines the width <u>e</u> of the future gaps and their spacing determines the pitch <u>p</u> of the said future gaps.

Next, an undercoat 20 is deposited on the entire surface (fig. 2c) by, for example, sputtering with Fe-Ni, and a resin mask 22 is formed leaving clear the

area where it is desired to produce the magnetic layer broken by the gaps.

Next, the magnetic layer 24 is deposited (fig. 2d) by, for example, electrolytic growth of Fe-Ni on undercoat 20. The resin is then dulled, all surfaces are annealed if necessary, and a layer of insulating material 26 is deposited, for example Si_3N_4.

The operations of depositing an undercoat 20, masking, depositing a magnetic material 24, dulling of the resin, and depositing an insulating layer 26 are repeated, in this example of fabrication, several times so as to obtain a magnetic circuit composed of a stack of magnetic layers separated by non-magnetic layers, the second magnetic layer not necessarily being covered by an insulating layer.

The stack thus formed is next planed down by mechanical or mechanochemical grinding (fig. 2e). A set of magnetic slabs 30 separated from each other by gaps 32 is then obtained.

In the case of a single-layer magnetic circuit, the first magnetic layer 24 is grown, electrolytically for example, on undercoat 20 to a height filling the pits and planing down is then carried out as in figure 2e after dulling.

Figures 3a to 3c illustrate schematically another method for implementing the process involved in the invention. In figure 3a, the operations start with substrate 40 (made of silicon, for example) and this substrate is covered over with an insulating layer 42 (made of SiO_2, for example). Next, a stack of alternating layers is deposited (fig. 3b), respectively magnetic 44 and insulating 46. The magnetic layers can

be deposited by sputtering. The insulating layers can be made of Si_3N_4 and be deposited by sputtering. A resin mask 48 is next formed with openings 50.

Lastly, by means of an engraving operation (fig. 3c), gaps 52 are formed in the multi-layer stack.

As in the previous case, this manufacturing variant can be used to produce a single-layer magnetic material.

Figure 4 shows an example of a magnetic circuit as defined by the invention. This involves a toroid 60 whose median line 62 is a circle. This circuit has gaps 64 perpendicular to this median line. They are therefore radial. The plane of these gaps rotates 360° when current flows through the circuit. A winding 66 is also shown.

Figure 5 shows another example of a magnetic circuit and corresponds to a magnetic pickup head. This circuit 70 shows a rounded rear portion and two side branches bent inwards so as to form an air gap 72. Median line 74 is roughly circular at the rear and turned inwards from both sides. Gaps 76 are perpendicular to this median line. The circuit is completed with a conductive winding 78 and is placed opposite a magnetic surface 80 carrying data in magnetic form.

It can be understood, through these examples, that the gaps do not necessarily lie in the same direction throughout the circuit. This direction may change from one point to another. It depends on the circuit's median line, therefore on the direction of the magnetic flux channeled by the circuit.

CLAIMS

1. A process for increasing the operating frequency of a magnetic circuit, characterized by the fact that it consists of forming, in at least one part of this circuit, gaps (32, 52) perpendicular to the median line (62, 74) of the magnetic circuit.

2. A process involved in claim 1, in which the gaps are formed in parallel planes.

3. A process involved in claim 1, in which gaps (32, 52) are formed at regular intervals with a certain pitch (p) and a certain width (e).

4. A magnetic circuit, characterized by the fact that it has, in at least one part of it, gaps (32, 52) perpendicular to the median line (62, 74) of the magnetic circuit (60, 70).

5. A magnetic circuit involved in claim 4, in which the gaps (32, 52) are spaced at regular intervals.

6. A circuit involved in either one of claims 4 and 5, in which the part of the circuit having the gaps is formed by a single layer of magnetic material.

7. A circuit involved in either one of claims 4 and 5, in which the part of the circuit having the gaps is formed by a stack of alternately magnetic (44) and insulating (46) layers.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for increasing the frequency of operation of a magnetic circuit and corresponding magnetic circuit.

In the invention, gaps are formed in at least one section of the circuit. These gaps lower the permeability of the circuit and increase in particular the frequency of magnetic resonance and make possible the use of higher frequencies.

Applications include the manufacture of inductors, transformers, components, magnetic heads, etc...

Fig. 2e

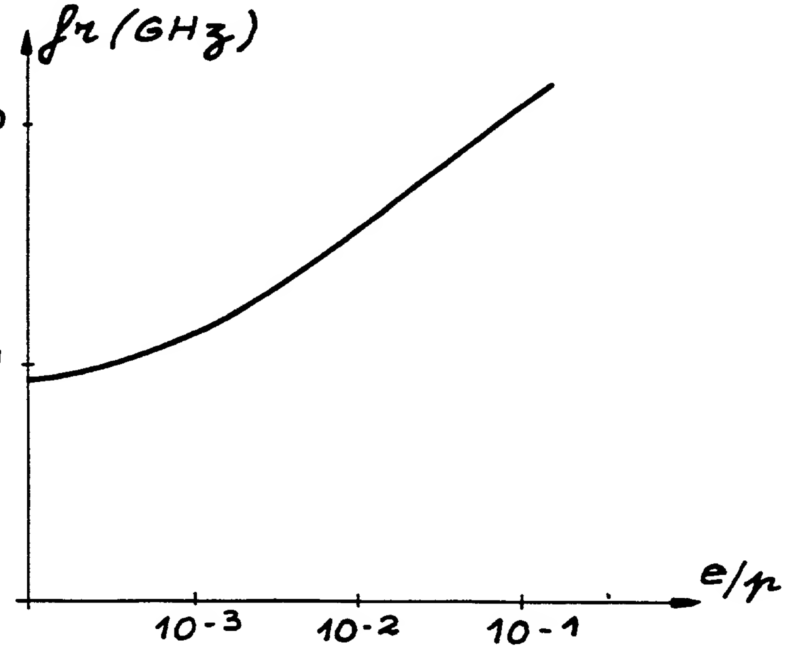

FIG. 1

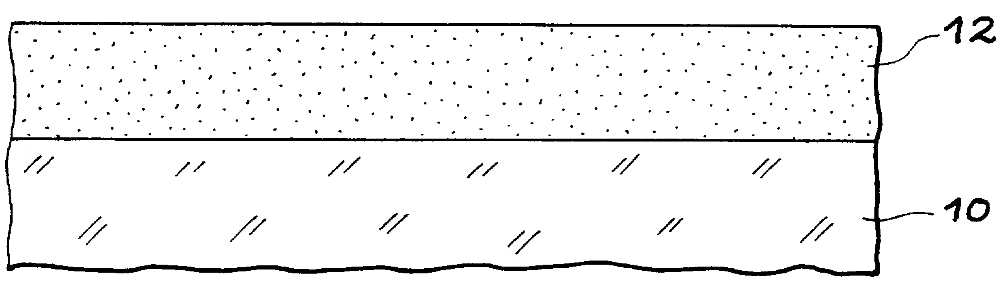

FIG. 2a

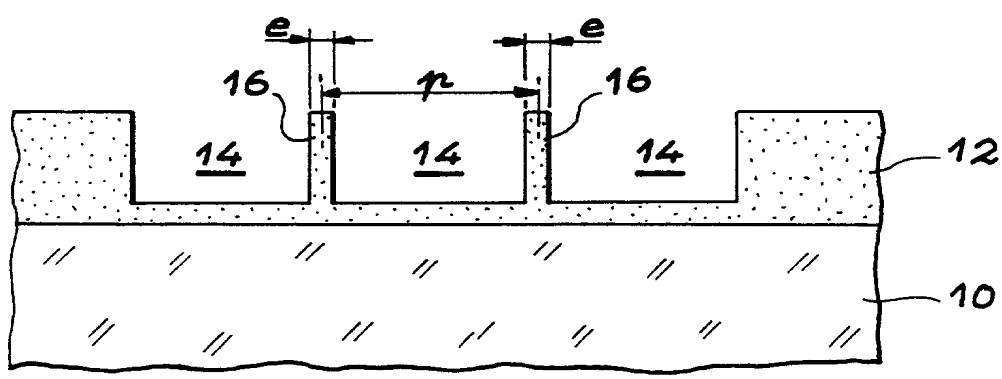

FIG. 2b

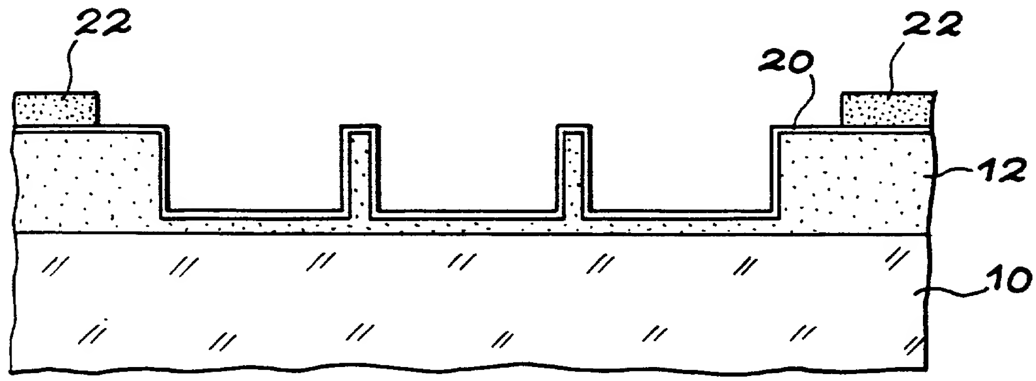

FIG. 2c

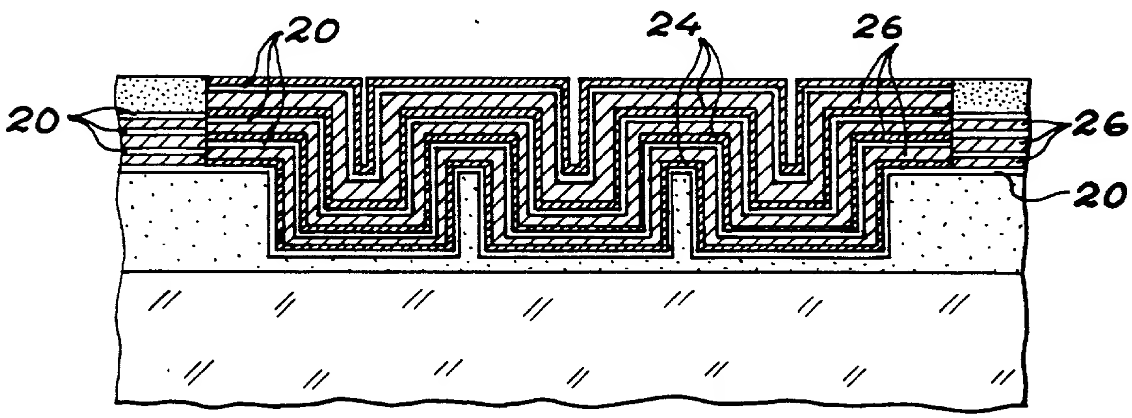

FIG. 2d

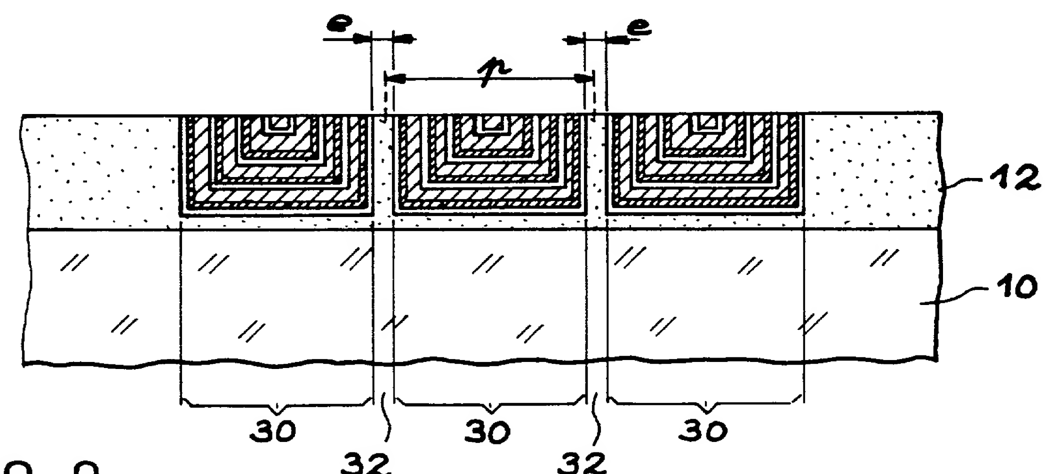

FIG. 2e

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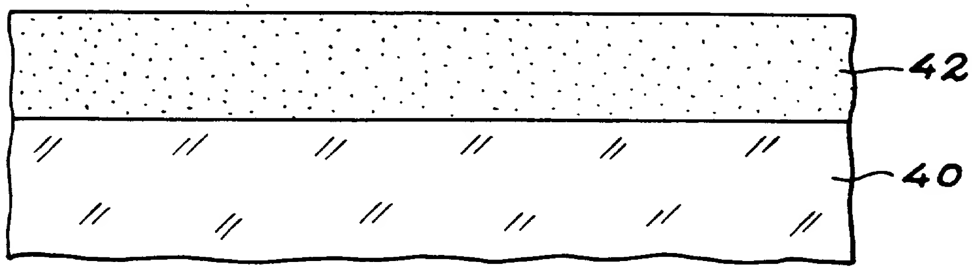

FIG. 3a

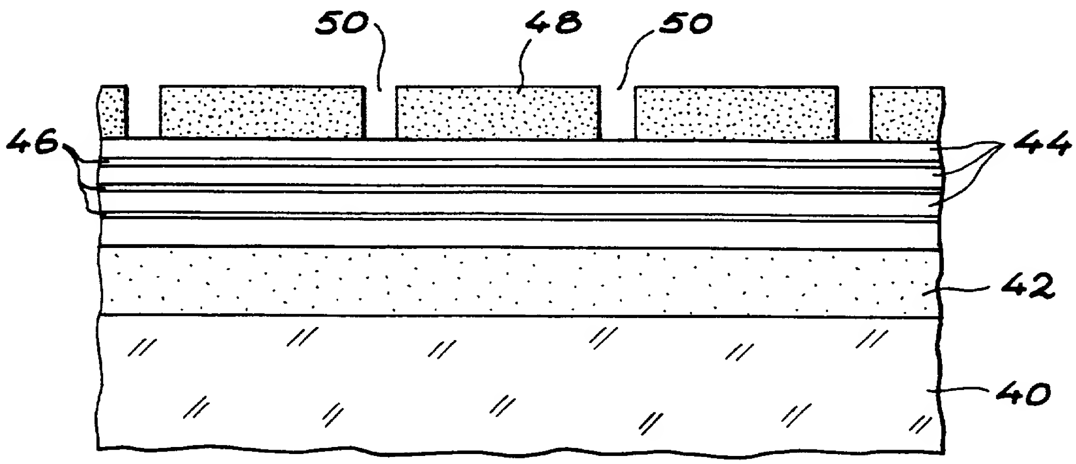

FIG. 3b

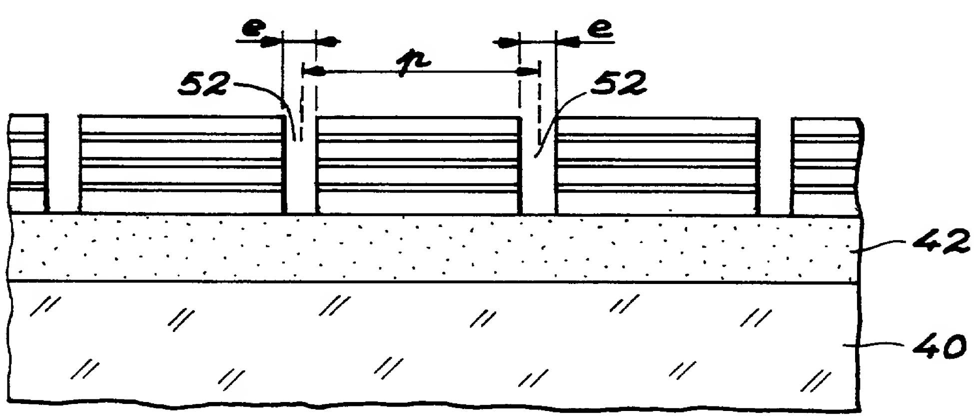

FIG. 3c

09/508692

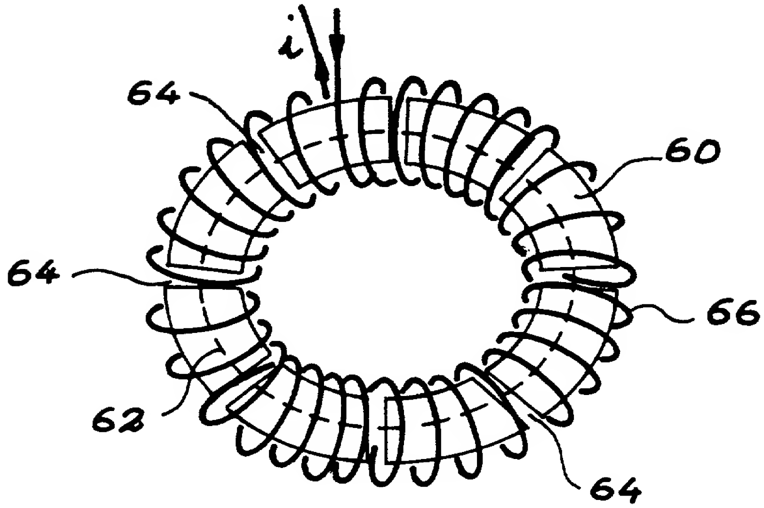

FIG. 4

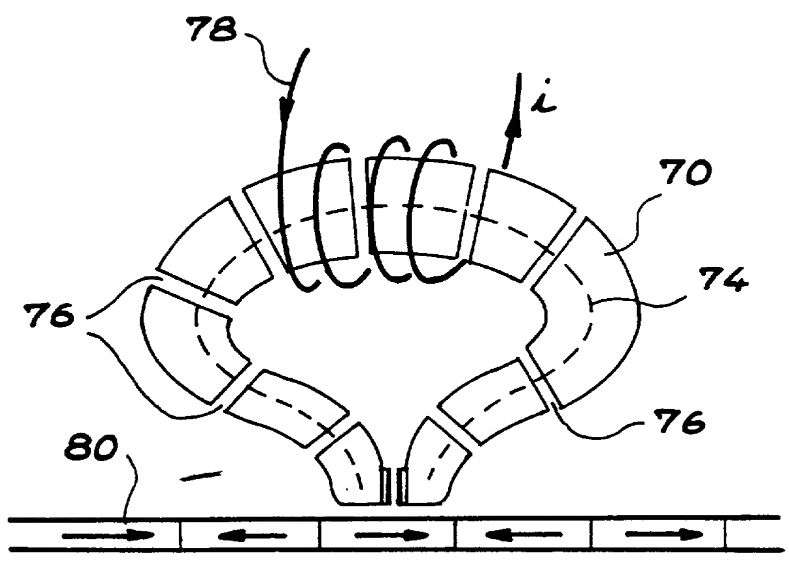

FIG. 5

Declaration, Power Of Attorney and Petition

WE (I) the undersigned inventor(s), hereby declare(s) that :

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

We (I) believe that we are (I am) the original, first, and joint (sole) inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled
PROCESS FOR INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF OPERATION OF A MAGNETIC CIRCUIT AND CORRESPONDING MAGNETIC CIRCUIT

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on

as Application Serial No.

and amended on

☒ was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/FR98/02069

on September 28,1998

and was amended under PCT Article 19

on

We (I) hereby state that we (I) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We (I) acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations.

We (I) hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d) or § 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365 (a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application (s)

Application No.	Country	Day/month/Year	Priority Claimed	
97 12080	FRANCE	29 SEPTEMBER 1997	☒ YES	☐ NO
			☐ YES	☐ NO
			☐ YES	☐ NO
			☐ YES	☐ NO

2-00

PEUZIN Jean-Claude

NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

01 MARCH 2000

Date

Residence : 7 lotissement des 4 Seigneurs
38320 HERBEYS FRANCE

FRX

Citizen of : Française

Post Office Address : The same as residence

NAME OF THIRD INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

Residence :

Citizen of :

Post Office Address : The same as residence

NAME OF FOURTH INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

Residence :

Citizen of :

Post Office Address : The same as residence

NAME OF FIFTH INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

Residence :

Citizen of :

Post Office Address : The same as residence

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 (e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (pending, patented, abandoned)

21

And we (I) hereby appoint : Norman F. Oblon, Registration Number 24,618; Marvin J. Spivak, Registration Number 24,913; C, Irvin McClelland, Registration Number 21,214; Gregory J. Maier, Registration Number 25,599; Arthur I. Neustadt, Registration Number 24,854; Richard D. Kelly, Registration Number 27,757; James D. Hamilton, Registration Number 28,421; Eckhard H. Kuesters, Registration Number 28,870; Robert T. Pous, Registration Number 29,099; Charles L. Gholz, Registration Number 26,395; Vincent J. Sunderdick, Registration Number 29,004; William E. Beaumont, Registration Number 30,996; Steven B. Kelber, Registration Number 30,073; Robert F. Gnuse, Registration Number 27,295; Jean-Paul Lavalleye, Registration Number 31,451; William B. Walker, Registration Number 22,498; Timothy R. Schwartz, Registration Number 32,171; Stephen G. Baxter, Registration Number 32,884; Martin M., Zoltick, Registration Number 35,745; Robert W. Hahl, Registration Number 33,893; and Richard L. Treanor, Registration Number 36,379; our (my) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith; and we (I) hereby request that all correspondence regarding this application be sent to the firm of OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C., whose post Office Address is : Fourth Floor, 1755 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

We (I) declare that all statements made herein of our (my) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true ; and future that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardise the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

1-00 ALBERTINI Jean-Baptiste

NAME OF FIRST SOLE INVENTOR

Albertini

Signature of Inventor

01 March 2000

Date

Residence : 194 Cours de la Libération
38100 GRENOBLE
FRANCE

Citizen of : FRANCE FRX

Post Office Address : The same as residence